

## Green Growth Summit 2023

### 10 years of the Green Growth Partnership: where next for the EU's climate and industry ambition?

Hybrid event: Brussels and online

10 October 2023

#### Speaker Biographies

##### Moderators



**María Tadeo, Europe correspondent, Bloomberg TV**

María Tadeo is a Brussels-based correspondent for Bloomberg Television where she regularly reports on European politics, economics and NATO.



**John Ainger, Climate and Energy Reporter, Bloomberg News**

John Ainger has reported for Bloomberg News in London and Brussels for seven years, spending the last two covering the EU's landmark green deal and energy crisis following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. He's also been a key part of Bloomberg's team covering the COP26 and COP27 climate summits in Glasgow and Sharm El Sheikh and will be on the ground in Dubai for COP28.

Scene Setter for the 10-year anniversary of the GGP:  
*“A look back at 10 years of climate policy – Where does the EU go from there?”*



**Kurt Vandenberghe, Director General, DG Climate Action, European Commission**

Kurt was appointed Director General of DG CLIMA on 16 January 2023. Until then, he was the Green Deal and Health advisor to President Ursula von der Leyen since 1 December 2019.

He had joined the cabinet of the President coming from DG Research and Innovation where he was Director for Policy & Programming since 1 February 2016 and Acting Director for Research & Innovation Outreach since 1 June 2019.

Before that, he was Director for 'Climate action and resource efficiency' at DG Research and Innovation since July 2013.

He served in the Cabinet of Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin (1999-2004) and as Head of the Cabinet of Janez Potočnik, who was Commissioner for Research and Innovation (2004-2009) and subsequently for Environment (from 2010).

Kurt joined the European Commission in 1996 as co-ordinator of the Commission's Intermodal Transport Task Force and of the Transport Research Programme.

Before entering the Commission, Kurt worked for 4 years as a manager at Ernst & Young Association Management, where he set up, managed and represented international trade associations.

After reading French and Italian literature at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL) and obtaining a degree in Public and International Affairs at the University Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve (UCL), Kurt gained a Master of Arts degree in International Relations at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (S.A.I.S.) in Bologna, Italy and Washington D.C., US.



**Ursula Woodburn, Director, CLG Europe**

Ursula Woodburn is Director of the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership's European office. Through her role she drives further corporate engagement on climate, nature, industry and building a sustainable European economy. She also is Director of the Corporate Leaders Group Europe, and oversees CISL engagement with We Mean Business EU Policy engagement and the Green Growth Partnership.



**Leonore Gewessler, Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Austria**

Leonore Gewessler has been Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology since 7 January 2020.

After her high school graduation in Graz, Austria and her studies of political science in Vienna, Leonore Gewessler worked from 2006 as office manager in the office of the district head of the 7<sup>th</sup> district of Vienna. In 2008, she moved to the Green European Foundation in Brussels, where she took over the management of the Europe-wide active NGO.

From 2014 on Leonore Gewessler worked as Political Director of Global 2000 – Friends of the Earth Austria back in Austria. In addition to her professional activities, she was also a member of the board of Friends of the Earth Europe.

**Panel Session 1:**  
*“Stepping stones towards 2040”*



**Prof. Dr. Laura Diaz Anadon, Chaired Professor of Climate Change Policy, Cambridge University, & Vice-Chair, European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change**

Professor Laura Diaz Anadon holds the chaired Professorship of Climate Change Policy at the University of Cambridge, where she directs the [Centre for Environment, Energy and Natural Resource Governance \(CEENRG\)](#) and is a Fellow of St. John’s College. She is also a long-standing Affiliate at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) at Harvard University. Her research assesses the environmental, economic, and distributional impacts of decarbonisation policies around the world. She is a Lead Author of Working Group III on Mitigating Climate Change in the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Among other policy roles, she is the Vice-Chair of the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change. She has received numerous awards and recognition for her research. In June 2018 she was awarded the XVII Fundación Banco Sabadell Prize for Economic Research for the best young Spanish economics researcher, and in 2021 she was awarded a Distinguished Visiting Professorship at Tsinghua University.



**Berthold Goeke, Representing Head of Climate Department, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Germany**

Berthold Goeke is Deputy Director-General for National and European climate policy in the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action. Before, he was Deputy Director-General for climate policy in the Federal Ministry for the Environment. Inter alia he worked as deputy spokesperson of the Federal Minister Klaus Töpfer, as desk officer at the Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the OECD/IEA in Paris and as Head of Division for environment and sustainable development in the Federal Chancellery.



**Ambassador Pierre Cartuyvels, Deputy Permanent Representative of Belgium to the EU**

Pierre Cartuyvels has a Master of Law and a Bachelor in Philosophy from Catholic University of Leuven. From 1989-1995, he served as a lawyer at the Brussels Bar. From 1994-2006 Mr Cartuyvels was Mayor, alderman and municipal counsellor of the city of Landen. Between 1995-1999, he was Deputy chief of staff of the Minister of environment. In 2001, he became First Counsellor at the Permanent representation of Belgium to the EU. Between 2002-2006, Mr Cartuyvels was First Counsellor at the Permanent representation of Belgium to NATO. From 2007-2009, he served as Counsellor at the Permanent representation of Belgium to the UN in New York.

Between 2009-2011, Mr Cartuyvels worked as Diplomatic advisor to the Prime Minister, and from 2012-2013, he was Diplomatic advisor to the minister of defense. Between 2012-2013, he served as Advisor to the Crown Prince. From 2013 to 2020, Mr Cartuyvels served as Deputy chief of staff and diplomatic advisor to His Majesty the King of the Belgians, before being appointed Ambassador, deputy permanent representative of Belgium to the EU in September 2020.



**Rafael Mateo Alcalá, CEO, ACCIONA Energía**

Rafael Mateo, with nearly 40 years of experience in the electricity sector, is one of the most experienced professionals in the renewable-energy sector, having played an active role in the global shift from fossil fuels to renewable energies.

His professional career began in 1982. He held different positions during his long trajectory in Endesa, including Production Director of Endesa Generación, Managing Director of Endesa Generación Latam, and CEO of Endesa Chile (NYSE: EOC). He has wide-ranging knowledge of Spanish and Latin-American markets, having managed a broad generation portfolio in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Peru.

In 2010, he joined ACCIONA ENERGÍA as General Manager, becoming CEO in 2013, the position he currently holds. He has been essential for consolidating the excellent track record of the Company over that period, guaranteeing solvency, reliability and growth through diverse regulatory cycles and geographies.

Mr Mateo Alcalá is the Chairman of the Supervisory Board of ACCIONA Energía International, S.A. and a member of various administrative bodies of other Acciona Group subsidiaries and he is also advisory board member of OMEL (Spanish Market Operator).

Mr Mateo Alcalá is a leading public figure in renewable energy and participates in an array of international organizations that promote a decarbonized economy and renewable development. He acted as president of Unipede-Eurelectric's production group in the past, is currently a member of the CEO's Electricity Group of the World Economic Forum, and actively participates in different forums and renewable-energy organizations.

Mr Mateo Alcalá holds a bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from the Higher Technical School of the University of Zaragoza (receiving the Extraordinary Honors Award). He has also completed a General Management Program at IESE Business School and a Business Management Program at INSEAD.



**Ville Niinistö, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance**

Ville Niinistö is a Member of the European Parliament. He is the Greens/EFA groups coordinator in the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and a member of the Committee on Environment.

Niinistö served as Finland's Minister of the Environment from 2011 to 2014. Niinistö is a former member of the Finnish parliament, former party leader of the Green Party of Finland and a current member of the city council of Turku.

Niinistö has a master's degree in political science from the University of Turku. Before being elected to the parliament in 2007 he worked as a doctoral student in political history (Finnish foreign policy) at the University of Turku in Finland.

Besides politics, Niinistö enjoys both playing and following football, walks with his dog and spends time in the nature of the archipelago southwest of Finland. Now he is living between Helsinki, Turku and Brussels, previously he has been staying in Stockholm, Indonesia and London.



**Megan Mitrevski Dale, Director, Environmental Sustainability, Coca-Cola Europacific Partners**

Megan is a sustainability professional with 20 years of corporate sustainability and strategy experience, including 14 years at Coca-Cola Europacific Partners (CCEP) - the world's largest independent Coca-Cola bottler. She is responsible for the development and implementation of CCEP's global Climate, Water and Biodiversity strategies, including its science-based target to reach net zero by 2040, and is passionate about the role of corporates in driving wider societal progress. Megan started her career in New York and London in Deloitte's Human Capital Practice, before moving to CCEP where she spent over 5 years evolving the company's ESG reporting and disclosure strategy.



Panel Session 2:

*"The Green Deal as a compass for the EU's future competitiveness"*



**Kristi Klaas, Deputy Director General for the Green Transition, Ministry of Climate, Estonia**

Kristi has been involved in designing and implementing environmental policy in Estonia for 20 years. During 2014-2018 she was appointed on diplomatic posts at the Permanent Representation of Estonia to the OECD and also to the European Union. During the Estonian Presidency in 2017 she led the team which concluded the negotiations on all the climate files, which form the basis for 2030 climate targets. For the past 5 years, she has led the climate policy and green transition in Estonia. At the Ministry of the Environment she was the deputy secretary general responsible for the negotiations of the "Fit for 55" package and 2030 climate goals in Estonia. Currently she is leading the government-wide green transition process at the Government Office of Estonia.



**Simon Henzell-Thomas, Global Director of Climate & Nature, Ingka Group (IKEA)**

Simon is currently Global Director of Climate and Nature for Ingka Group, operating IKEA Retail in over 30 countries. Simon is tasked with ensuring that Ingka Group (IKEA) remains a leader in climate and nature action with ambitious goals to 2030 and 2050.

Previously Simon led the global Public Affairs, Advocacy & Transparency functions, driving change in society through purpose-led advocacy and campaigning, influencing public policy and ensuring the highest standards of corporate transparency.

He has over nearly 20 years of experience working with and for global blue-chip retailers in a number of senior leadership roles. He has a background in change management, executive and non-executive leadership, corporate sustainability, human rights, multi-stakeholder partnerships, advocacy, stakeholder engagement & corporate transparency.

Previously to his current role, Simon was an integral part of the IKEA sustainability function in Sweden, leading human rights strategy development and partnership-building. Before that, he was Head of Sustainability & Ethical Trade at The Body Shop, which then became part of the part of the L'Oréal Group.

Simon has a number of year's experience as a non-Executive Director and Board member, previously as a Trustee for The Body Shop Foundation and as a Trustee for The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT). Simon has also been a Chair for the EuroCommerce Jobs and Skills Committee in Brussels. Simon has played important roles in global multi-stakeholder initiatives, such as the Real Play Coalition, the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and the Leadership Group for Responsible Recruitment (LGRR).



Simon has been a judge for the Cannes Award for Creativity in the Sustainable Development Goals category and was included in the Forbes list of “43 People Changing Advertising for Climate.”

Simon is a proud European with a British passport – living in The Hague with his wife and two sons. He has an MSC in Business Strategy and Environmental Politics from the University of London.

**Christophe Grudler, Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group**

Christophe Grudler is a French Member of the European Parliament (MEP), and a member of the Renew Europe group. As a historian and journalist by training, his political commitment began at an early stage of his career. He is particularly active at the local level in his hometown, Belfort, where he has been elected as a local representative several times.

Within the European Parliament, MEP Grudler serves as the Vice-Coordinator of the ITRE Committee (Industry, Research, and Energy) for the Renew Europe group.

Christophe Grudler takes a keen interest in energy and industry-related topics, as well as in space and defence policies. He is currently the Renew Europe shadow rapporteur on the Net Zero Industry Act (NZIA), and previously served as a rapporteur for the European Parliament on the IRIS2 satellite program. He was also the shadow rapporteur for his group on the European Industrial Strategy, and on the revision of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED).

Additionally, he is a member of the Foreign Affairs (AFET) and Security and Defence (SEDE) committees. Mr Grudler is the permanent Rapporteur for Renew Europe for relations with Switzerland and Lebanon.



Finally, Mr. Grudler is the Vice-President of the Sky & Space Intergroup and President of a discussion group about the future of nuclear power in Europe.



**Dr. Kimmo Järvinen, Head of European Governmental Affairs, SSAB**

Born and raised in Finland with a PhD in process engineering and MBA in International Business Operations, Kimmo is currently holding the position of Head of EU governmental Affairs for the SSAB. SSAB is a Nordic and US-based steel company. SSAB offers value added products and services developed in close cooperation with its customers to create a stronger, lighter and more sustainable world. SSAB has employees in over 50 countries. SSAB has production facilities in Sweden, Finland and the US and is listed on the NASDAQ OMX Nordic Exchange in Stockholm and has a secondary listing on the NASDAQ OMX in Helsinki.

With over 20 years of experience in the industry and before joining the SSAB Metal Producers, Kimmo was working with few Finnish multinational chemical and metal manufacturing

	<p>companies being responsible for industrial operations ranging from R&amp;D, Sales and production. He has been living and working in the USA, Japan, the Netherlands and Belgium, and has extensive experience in doing business with Russia.</p>
	<p><b>Ambassador Barbara Cullinane, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland to the EU</b></p> <p>Barbara Cullinane, from Mullingar, is Ireland’s Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Union. Prior to taking up this post she was Director of Policy Coordination in the Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, 2019-2021. She was Director of Strategy, Governance and Change at the Department’s headquarters from 2017-2018, and served as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Ireland in London from 2012 to 2017. She has covered Brexit and Northern Ireland issues, and also worked on multilateral affairs and international development at HQ and at the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN in New York. She is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin and UCD Smurfit School of Business.</p>
	<p><b>Harry Verhaar, Head of Global Public &amp; Government Affairs, Signify, and Chair, Corporate Leaders Group Europe</b></p> <p>Harry Verhaar has over 30 years of experience in the lighting industry and is Head of Global Public &amp; Government Affairs and Vice-President at Signify. He is responsible for the strategy, outreach and stakeholder management on energy &amp; climate change, resource efficiency and sustainable development, with a key focus on the role of the LED lighting revolution. He is also the chairman of the Signify Foundation.</p> <p>He has since the end of 2003 been the architect of the Signify strategy on energy and climate change, which has resulted in a global momentum on phasing out of old lighting technologies and in Signify’s carbon neutrality.</p> <p>He is an active member of a number of partnership and stakeholder networks, among which The Climate Group; Regions20, the World Green Building Council and of the UN Environment Science Business Policy governing consortium. He is responsible for Signify’s relationship with the World Economic Forum and the UN. He is chairman of the Corporate Leadership Group Europe, and is a former chairman of the European Alliance to Save Energy and former president and co-founder of the Global Off-Grid Lighting Association.</p> <p>Harry is a recipient of the 2011 UN Leader of Change Award, and has received the Carbon War Room’s Gigaton award on behalf of Philips at COP17 in Durban. In May 2015 he received the Energy Efficiency Visionary Award from the Alliance to Save Energy in Washington DC. He holds a MSc in Solid State Luminescence from the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands.</p>



Fireside Chat:

“The international implications of EU policies and expectations for the COP”



**Uroš Vajgl, State Secretary for Environment and Climate, Slovenia**

Uroš Vajgl has extensive diplomatic experience, including at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Slovenia to the EU. Upon his return to Slovenia, he served as Head of the Environment and Climate Change Division and later as Deputy Director-General for the Environment. On 1 June 2022, he was appointed State Secretary responsible for Environment and Climate Policy.



**María Mendiluce, CEO, We Mean Business Coalition**

María Mendiluce is the CEO of the We Mean Business Coalition and has 25 years of experience in sustainable development, energy and climate action. The Coalition brings together its seven founding partners: BSR, The B Team, CDP, Ceres, CLG Europe, Climate Group and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). Together with more than 40 implementation partners, the Coalition catalyzes business leadership and policy ambition to accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon economy.

As chief executive of the Coalition, María is working with her team and partners to provide the north star for ambitious climate action and to guide companies through their journey to net-zero. The Coalition has mobilized 11,000 companies, big and small, that have committed to reducing emissions aligned with the Paris Agreement. It has also brought the business voice to G7, G20 and UN Climate Change to provide confidence to policy makers to put in place ambitious climate policies.

María is leading on flagship net-zero initiatives encompassing companies of all sizes and several sectors. She sits on the Executive Board of The Science Based Targets initiative. She actively took part in the founding and is a member of the Board of the Mission Possible Partnership that works to develop decarbonization roadmaps for seven hard-to-abate sectors including cement and steel. María also co-founded the SME Climate Hub that is building a one-stop-shop for smaller companies for their net-zero commitments.

Formerly being the Managing Director and member of the Senior Management Team at WBCSD, María established transformative industry projects in energy, climate, transport, plastics and circular economy. She has also held senior positions at the Economic Bureau of the Spanish Prime Minister, in the CEO's office of Iberdrola and at the International Energy Agency. María has a PhD in energy economics. She is a Commissioner on the Energy Transitions Commission, a board member of the Centre for International Environmental Studies (CIES) in the Graduate Institute in Geneva and she is part of several companies' sustainability advisory councils.

María is Spanish, has three kids and lives in Geneva, Switzerland.



**Bas Eickhout, MEP, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance**

Bas Eickhout (1976, Groesbeek, NL) studied Chemistry and Environmental Science at the Radboud University in Nijmegen and lives in Utrecht. Since 2000, he worked as a researcher at the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (Planbureau voor de Leefomgeving). He worked on several projects related to international environmental problems, such as climate change, agriculture, land-use and biofuels. He co-authored the IPCC report on climate change, which received the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

Bas Eickhout has been a member of the European Parliament and delegation leader of the Dutch Greens since 2009. He is a member and coordinator of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and a substitute member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Committee on Budgetary Control. Eickhout is also a member of the Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China and a substitute member of the Delegation for relations with the United States.



**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Third Vice-President of the Government of Spain and Minister for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge**

Teresa Ribera is the Third Vice President and Spanish Minister for Ecological Transition. Previously, Ms. Ribera served as the Director of the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) from 2014 to 2018, and she played a key role in the negotiation of the Paris Climate Agreement and the transition towards sustainable development. She was the Secretary of State for Climate Change and Biodiversity of Spain from 2008 to 2011, responsible for environmental and climate policies, as well as the State Meteorological Agency. She is a civil servant in the Higher Corps of State Administrators and has taught classes at the Autonomous University of Madrid.